

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An integrated unit, comprising:

a laser beam source for emitting a laser beam;
a detecting portion for detecting reflection of said emitted laser beam;
optical elements for controlling the pathways defined by said emitted laser beam and said reflection thereof, said optical elements including at least a diffraction element for diffracting said emitted laser beam and said reflection thereof;
a casing accommodating said laser beam source and said detecting portion; and
a transparent optical compensation film for circularizing the polarization of light passing therethrough such that light exiting therefrom is circularly or elliptically polarized, said transparent optical compensation film (i) comprising a single layer polyolefin-type polymer film characterized by a first type of film index ellipsoid, said single layer polyolefin-type polymer film characterized by said first type of film index ellipsoid having been formed by uniaxially stretching or biaxially stretching a single layer polyolefin-type polymer film characterized by a film index ellipsoid of a different type from said first type of film index ellipsoid such that said film index ellipsoid of said different type from said first type of film index ellipsoid is changed into said first type of film index ellipsoid by said uniaxial or biaxial stretching, and (ii) being formed integrally with one of said optical elements or with an end of said casing so as to be disposed in said optical pathways defined by said emitted laser beam and said reflection thereof.

2. (Cancelled, without prejudice)

3. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 1, wherein
said optical compensation film is attached onto said diffraction element.
4. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 1, including said optical
compensation film inside said diffraction element.
5. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 1, wherein
said casing and said optical compensation film are integrated.
6. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 1, including a cap member,
provided to said casing, for closing an opening.
7. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 6, wherein said cap member and an
optical compensation film are integrated.
8. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 3, wherein
said diffraction element has a diffraction pattern for diffracting a laser beam, said
diffraction pattern being formed on said optical compensation film.
9. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 3, wherein
said diffraction element has a diffraction pattern for diffracting a laser beam, said optical
compensation film being formed on said diffraction pattern.

10 (Currently Amended) An optical pickup for reading information on an optical disk by condensing a laser beam onto the optical disk, comprising:

- a laser beam source for emitting a laser beam;
- a detecting portion for detecting reflection of said emitted laser beam;
- optical elements for controlling the pathways defined by said emitted laser beam and said reflection thereof, said optical elements including at least a diffraction element for diffracting said emitted laser beam and said reflection thereof;
- a casing accommodating said laser beam source and said detecting portion;
- an integrated unit in which said diffraction element and said casing are integrated;
- an objective lens for condensing the laser beam onto the optical disk; and
- a transparent optical compensation film for circularizing the polarization of light passing therethrough such that light exiting therefrom is circularly or elliptically polarized, said transparent optical compensation film (i) comprising a single layer polyolefin-type polymer film characterized by a first type of film index ellipsoid, said single layer polyolefin-type polymer film characterized by said first type of film index ellipsoid having been formed by uniaxially stretching or biaxially stretching a single layer polyolefin-type polymer film characterized by a film index ellipsoid of a different type from said first type of film index ellipsoid such that said film index ellipsoid of said different type from said first type of film index ellipsoid is changed into said first type of film index ellipsoid by said uniaxial or biaxial stretching, and (ii) being formed integrally with one of said optical elements or with an end of said casing so as to be disposed in said optical pathways defined by said emitted laser beam and said reflection thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) An optical pickup for reading information recorded on an optical disk

by condensing a laser beam onto the optical disk, comprising:

- a laser beam source for emitting a laser beam;
- a detecting portion for detecting a reflected light;
- a diffraction element for diffracting the laser beam;
- a casing accommodating said laser beam source and said detecting portion;
- an integrated unit in which said diffraction element and said casing are integrated;
- an objective lens for condensing the laser beam onto the optical disk; and
- a reflection mirror for changing a direction of the laser beam; wherein

said reflection mirror is integrated with a transparent optical compensation film, said transparent optical compensation film (i) comprising a single layer polyolefin-type polymer film characterized by a first type of film index ellipsoid, said single layer polyolefin-type polymer film characterized by said first type of film index ellipsoid having been formed by uniaxially stretching or biaxially stretching a single layer polyolefin-type polymer film characterized by a film index ellipsoid of a different type from said first type of film index ellipsoid such that said film index ellipsoid of said different type from said first type of film index ellipsoid is changed into said first type of film index ellipsoid by said uniaxial or biaxial stretching, and (ii) being adapted to circularize the polarization of light passing therethrough such that light exiting therefrom is circularly or elliptically polarized.